

of the A. O. U., it was thought that an invitation from Philadelphia, where the A. O. U. meeting of 1921 would naturally be held, might facilitate the arrangements.

Respectfully submitted:

Witmer Stone
 William L. Baily
 George Spencer Morris
 Samuel N. Rhoads
 Spencer Trotter
 Robert T. Moore
 C. E. Ehinger
 J. Fletcher Street
 Julian K. Potter
 George H. Stuart 3rd.
 Samuel C. Palmer
 William E. Hughes
 H. Severn Regar
 Stewardson Brown
 Henry W. Fowler
 James A. G. Rehn
 Arthur C. Emlen
 Samuel Seoville, Jr.

J. Parker Norris
 William E. Roberts
 Conrad K. Roland
 Francis L. Bacon
 John D. Carter
 Robert Riddle
 S. Earl Riddle
 Thomas H. Jackson
 Edward Norris
 Francis R. Cope, Jr.
 William H. Trotter
 Edwin B. Bartram
 William B. Evans
 Wm. J. Serrill
 Samuel A. Tatnall
 Anthony W. Robinson
 Cornelius Weygandt
 Robt. P. Sharples

Name of the Red-footed Booby.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

In the 'Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.,' Vol. lxxiii, August, 1919, a paper by Messrs. Townsend and Wetmore appears dealing with 'Birds from the Tropical Pacific.' On p. 167, under the name *Sula piscator* (Linné) a discussion of the name to be used for the Red-footed Booby is given. There appear to be fundamental errors in the reasoning, and it is quite impossible to fix the name "*piscator*" to a species, because it is "believed" that the female described by Linné was that species. It is conceded that "there is little question that the male and female described above belong to separate species of which the female is the bird now known as *Sula piscator*." In reaching this conclusion the authors eliminate the discrepancy in the colour of the quills, but lay stress on the number of tail feathers, though a couple could have been lost in the latter case, just as easily as a mistake could have been made in the former.

They admit that only the type of *Sula abbotti* Ridgway from the Mascarene group was available, but gloss over the fact that Adhelius' description was based on birds collected by Osbeck very close to Christmas

Island, where a species determined as *Sula abbotti* occurs. This seems an important factor.

As there can be no difference of opinion as to the fact that *Sula piscator* (Linné) is an indeterminable mixture I maintain that it cannot be used by any ornithologist who desires accuracy. I have reconsidered the matter in every detail with Messrs. Iredale and Hartert who agree that the resumé given in my 'Birds of Australia' is correct and that *Sula piscator* Linné must be regarded as quite indeterminable.

Yours etc., GREGORY M. MATHEWS.

Foulis Court, Fair Oak, Hants, England.

Ornithological Pronunciation.

EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':

May I take a little space in *The Auk*, to call attention to a matter which is not in itself ornithological, but which it seems to me is of importance to ornithologists? While attending the recent meeting of the A. O. U. in New York I noticed that one word which is liable to be used frequently in ornithological discussions was almost invariably mispronounced. If this were a matter of mispronunciation by one or two individuals I should say nothing, for my own speech is often far from perfect, but it seems to be common to the ornithological profession. Not only humble associates, but members, fellows, some with most enviable reputations, were prone to talk of *adult* birds when they should have said *adult*. Only once did I hear the word pronounced correctly in the two days I attended the sessions, and then the speaker, not quite sure of himself said "the *adult* -er- *adult* birds."

I have searched the dictionaries for any authority for the "ornithological" pronunciation of this word but cannot find it. Perhaps the fact that I am a school-teacher, and continually correcting mispronunciations among the coming generation has made me particular, but I have said what I have, not with the desire to find fault with any individual, but to assist the ornithological profession in efforts to perfect its use of English.

ARETAS A. SAUNDERS.

143 East Ave., Norwalk, Conn.